

GOC Update: Convoy in Ottawa - Jan 26 2022

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Date: Wed, 26 Jan 2022 23:49:19 +0000

Good evening Colleagues,

New information in bold

The following relates to a planned peaceful demonstration in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan. The Government Operations Centre (GOC) is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets.

Overview:

- Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals." [Link](#)

Key Points:

- A number of Canadian truckers have planned a massive convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.
- Trucking convoys from across the country are planning to gather in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan to demonstrate against this requirement.
- Members of the national group, Freedom Convoy 2022 are planning to conduct "slow roll" convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing over the next two weekends. A spokesperson for the group indicates that such convoys will continue so long as government imposed COVID-19 mandates and restrictions continue. [Link](#)
 - The NB chapter of the group is planning one such convoy at the Woodstock, NB / Houlton, ME border beginning at approximately 11:00 EST on 29 Jan and will continue for the majority of the day, with convoys on both sides of the border.
 - Additional convoys are planned at the NB/NS and several NB/QC borders on 29 Jan
 - Convoy in Sarnia ON, commenced 23 Jan consisting of mostly passenger vehicles on the 402 West leading up to the Blue Water Bridge crossing.
 - Convoy in Windsor ON, on 23 Jan, to begin driving a circuit leading up to the Ambassador Bridge crossing. This will continue until 27 Jan when the convoy will depart for Ottawa.
 - Eastern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: St. Johns NL, P.E.I, Enfield NS on 27 Jan.
 - Southern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: Windsor and Sarnia on 27 Jan.
 - **The western convoy originating from BC passed through Dryden destined for Thunder Bay for the night. [Link](#)**

- According to Regina Police Service, an estimated 1,200 semi-trucks were seen driving through. [Link](#)
 - The three convoys plan to meet in Ottawa on 29 Jan.
- Contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organizations website: [Link](#)
- Canadian Truck Alliance (CTA) released a statement saying it does not support any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges. [Link](#)
 - The Atlantic Canadian Trucking Association is adding its voice to calls, denouncing the trucking convoy headed for Ottawa.
- As reported on Open Sources, CTA states that as many as 32,000 or 20% of CAN/US cross border truck drivers may be impacted by the vaccine mandate. [Link](#)
 - 25 Jan: 26,000 of the 160,000 drivers (Canadians and Americans) who make regular Canada-United-States trips will likely be sidelined as a result of the vaccine mandate in both countries.
- News of the Freedom Convoy 2022 has hit international media as seen on [Reuters](#)
- PM Justin Trudeau announced that close to 90% of Canadian Truckers are already vaccinated and will therefore not be impacted by the new restrictions. [Link](#)
 - Some truckers oppose the mandates, commenting on the restriction on their freedom as well as the predicted effects on the supply chain. [Link](#)
- **Minister Alhabra has said there has been no measurable reduction in the number of trucks crossing the border each day.**
- Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, has commented on options for rapid tests at the border for unvaccinated drivers to avoid disrupting the flow of goods at a time of high inflation. [Link](#)
- AB PM Jason Kenney signaled he was working with U.S. governors on a letter to pressure President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to reverse the order. [Link](#)
- In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)
- According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised over **\$5.3** million in fundraising in support of their cause. [Link](#)
 - However, GoFundMe has temporarily frozen the funds, stating that they require the fundraisers "be transparent about the flow of funds and have a clear plan for how those funds will be spent." [Link](#)
 - The group stated that the money raised is to help truckers pay for fuel, lodging and food, and will be distributed "following a strict procedure,". They also stated that "Drivers must register, check in with their respective road captains and submit receipts to be reimbursed," and that "all remaining funds will be donated to a Veterans Association in Canada. There is a lawyer and accountant overseeing this." [Link](#)
- **As part of the protest, Canada Unity plans to present a request (MOU) to the Governor General and Senate for the removal of various COVID19 related Public Health Order restrictions.**
- **Some supporters suggested they would not leave Ottawa until vaccine mandates for public servants, Canadian travelers and cross-border truckers are lifted.**
- **The Parliamentary Protective Service, who are responsible for security on Parliament Hill, told Global News they are aware of the protest plans and are coordinating with other security agencies.**
- **OPP has said that it is working with those involved to minimize the impact to the public and ensure public safety. OPP is also advising the public that "protest activities may interrupt the normal flow of traffic" [Link](#)**
- **Ottawa police now preparing for multiple groups coming to Ottawa with planning underway for a range of risks including counter-demonstrations, blocking of intersections,**

interfering with critical infrastructure, and unlawful activity. Ottawa police have also reported a direct threat from a counter-protest source. [Link](#)

- **Freedom Convoy 2022 organizer says the group won't tolerate extremists and instructed participants "If you see participants along the way that are misbehaving, acting aggressively in any way or inciting any type of violence or hatred, please take down the truck number and their license plate number so that we can forward that to the police," in response to fringe groups/people calling for destructive action.** [Link](#)
- **A joint communication strategy is being developed by the City of Ottawa to ensure the public is informed of traffic and transit plans throughout the demonstration.**

Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources) for the 28-29 Jan Demonstration in Ottawa:

- Trucking convoys driving slowly on highways could cause travel delays for commercial or personal vehicles on major highways.
- The trucking convoys gathering in Ottawa could severely impact the travel of commercial and personal vehicles within the City.
- Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and are coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.
- **OP INTERSECT is indicating that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.**
- **Organizers of the protest have expressed the intent for a peaceful event, which is consistent with what has been seen in other areas where the convoy has stopped so far.**

On behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG Government Operations Centre.

Thank you.

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Veillez noter que je n'attends pas de réponse le soir, le week-end ou pendant vos temps libres, sauf en cas de situation urgente qui nous concerne tous les deux.